

The STOCKDEN NEWSLETTER

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Its time to bring you all up to date with the latest on the STOCKDENS.

I was recently contacted by Mrs Ann HIRD, daughter of the late Lilian STOCKDEN (1927 - 1995), of whom I had found very little family history. The marriage, after banns, of Lilian STOCKDEN and Wilfred GUEST was at St Augustine's Church, Mynnyddyslwyn, MON, South WALES. Certificate no: 28. Lilian was resident at Pontllanraith, the daughter of William and Morffydd STOCKDEN, (William now deceased had been a stonemason).

Wilfred GUEST, an electrician, and resident in Dudley, WOR, was the son of Frank GUEST also an electrician. The vicar of St Augustine's was Benjamin Jones EVANS.

Lilian married secondly to Frank William DOWNING, a Security guard administrator.

Lilian had a daughter, Morffydd Ann GUEST, 21 Nov 1949 and a son Stephen Wilfred GUEST, 30 Oct 1957. Ann had informed me of the deaths of her Uncle Ned in March 2000 and of her Aunt Winifred's death, in a letter dated 01 April 2008.

Winifred Lilian STOCKDEN (formerly LAMB, née GREGORY) 1916 - 2007, died at the Nevill Hall Hospital, Abergavenny. She was a retired schools dinner lady and wife of the late Edward John (Ned) STOCKDEN 1920 - 2000.

My friend of many years , Rudy Lacchin, was searching the Internet and came across a find of which he informed me immediately. This concerned the Archives for Gloucestershire and in particular a Coroners inquest report.

At the Glos R O, I requested the necessary reference and read of one 18 yrs old Hannah STOCKDEN, b 1845 in Chipping Sodbury. She was apprenticed to a Mary COOK of Iron Acton as, I believe, a dressmaker or needleworker. The inquest was held on 14 July 1864 at the "House known by the sign of the Railway Inn, in the parish of Yate" before William Gaisford, "One of Her Majesty's Coroners for the said County" on view of the body of the said person then and there lying dead.

As the sworn statements of witnesses showed Hannah had been wandering the lanes between Yate and Iron Acton on the 13 July. Her mother discovered that Hannah had not been at work all day and spent the night searching for her but she was not found until daylight, drowned in the waters of Garner's Quarry.

The report stated that there was no evidence to show how she had come to be in the water. In effect, what would today be called "an open verdict". However, her mother stated in her deposition that Hannah had been slighted by her boyfriend a year before and that it had preyed on her mind. So much so, that she had said to her brother, that she "felt like drowning herself".

Hannah was the daughter of George and Hannah (née DYER) STOCKDEN of Chipping Sodbury.
